

The Star-Ledger

The Newspaper for New Jersey

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Newark, N.J. Thursday, February 16, 1984

DANCE IN JERSEY

Gallman troupe performs pair of new works

By VALERIE SUDOL

Gallman's Newark Dance Theatre was a big hit with youngsters attending an on-school-time performance held yesterday in connection with Black History Month celebrations at Symphony Hall in Newark.

The company, a bright spot in the city's cultural life, is directed by Alfred Gallman at studios in the Aljira Artists Collective on N. 7th Street. Two new works by Gallman were featured in the concert that followed by less than two weeks the troupe's appearance at The Symphony Space in New York.

The shorter of the two premieres, a solo titled "The Call," featured guest artist Thea Narissa Barnes of the Martha Graham Dance Company. Cast as a niaid—a sinister maiden of the forest who preys on men who cross her path—Barnes got a chance to use her flair for drama in this dance of sinuous menace.

The taut, natural grace of a wild creature was effectively rendered in Gallman's choreography for the pencil-thin Barnes. A key prop in the dance was a tall step ladder on which Barnes executed some of her most daring off-center arabesques. At the conclusion of the piece, she retreated up the ladder and drew around her a black cloak long enough to reach the floor. It was an image that suggested an animal perched in readiness for the next victim.

The other premiere, a full-company piece titled "Sackful of Dreams," was at least as energetic, but fell short of such visual drama. This is a dance that needs the sets and costumes that the company can't yet afford to help the audience sort out the many characters in the cast.

Briefly, the suite of dances concerns the unfulfilled dreams of a bag lady (wittily portrayed by Pamela Peterkin) to dance in the ballet. There's some good material here, particularly for the men, but the piece requires some tidying up. It's an ambitious work that deserves a second look.

Gallman's young dancers are impressively strong, with enviable 11 o'clock extensions and rock-solid balance; age and experience will add the control and niceties of phrasing that most still lack. Especially good in the cast were Gregory Hinton, Tia Young and Gerard Alexander, a dancer with impeccable carriage.

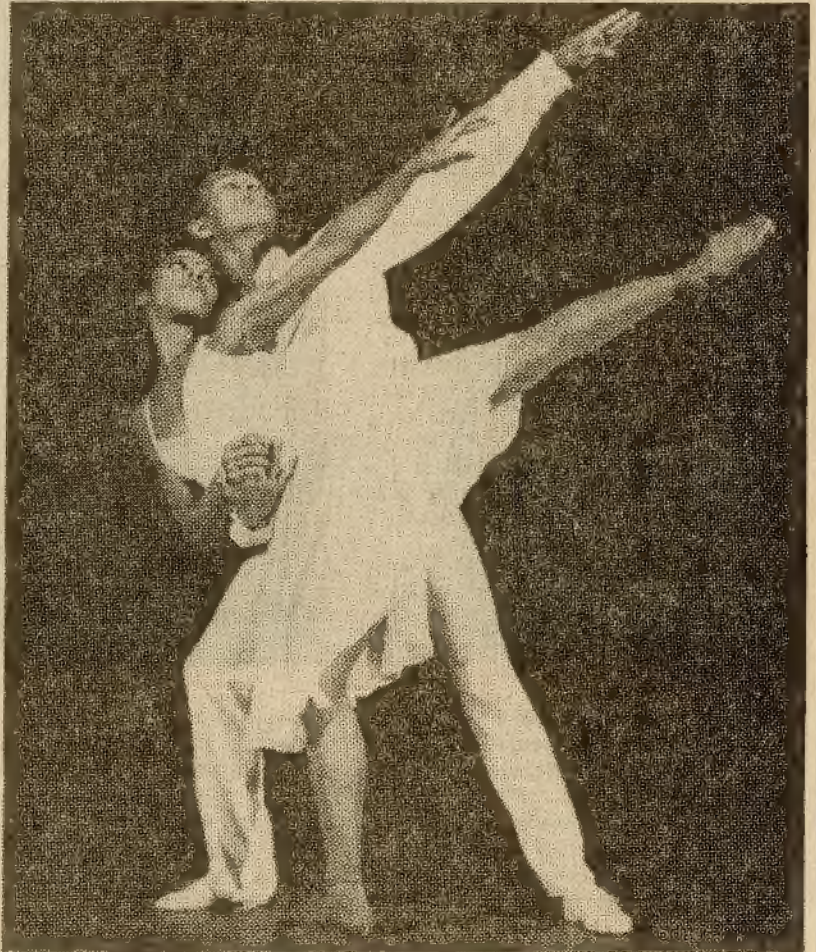


Photo by Ronald F. Moffat

Kenneth Gant partners Robin Williams in 'Engaged,' a duet created by Alfred Gallman

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The Sulaimaan Dance Company

1984 SPRING SEASON

THE NEW
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PERFORMANCE TIME

Young People

MARCO RIZO and THE SOUTH AMERICAN MUSIC PROJECT

Marco Rizo has recorded for RCA, Capitol, Somerset and Decca recording companies, and also composed and arranged music for several movies at Columbia, MGM and Paramount studios. Trained as a classical musician, he specializes in the presentation of music from his native Latin America. His American debut took place at New York's Town Hall, after which he joined the Bob Hope Show as pianist and arranger. This led directly to an eight year association with Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz as pianist, arranger and conductor for the "I Love Lucy" series. The South American Music Project, under the direction of Marco Rizo, performs extensively in schools, community centers and concert halls. Through such performances there is opportunity to hear and experience first-hand, representative music from the various Latin American cultures, including Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Santo Domingo, extensively exploiting the wide and colorful variety of Latin American musical styles.



March 20, 1984

THE SULAIMAAN DANCE COMPANY

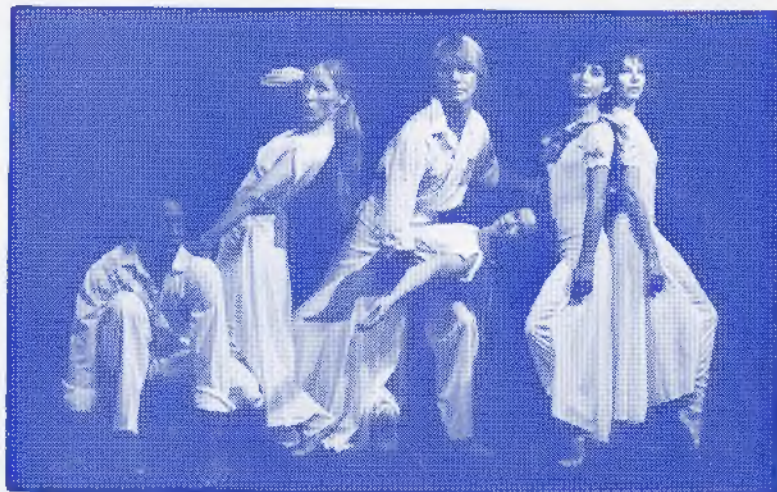
The Sulaimaan Dance Company, under the director Luther Sulaimaan, has evolved into one of the finest performers of African Dance in the Metropolitan area. The Old Mali Empire, Ghanaian Songs and Dances, Nigerian folklore, and the Haitian Nago are representative of the cross-section of material from the African diaspora that the Sulaimaan Dance Company has transformed into a dynamic concert presentation. Audiences at Ohio State University, Antioch College, Yellow Springs-Ohio, The Newark Library, The Newark Museum, and at public schools throughout New Jersey have attested to the highly charged and beautifully staged concert performances of the Sulaimaan Dance Company.



May 4, 1984

THE JULIE MALONEY DANCE COMPANY

The Julie Maloney Dance Company was formed in 1975 and made its debut performance at the Merce Cunningham studio in New York City in December 1975. Since then this modern dance company has performed in concerts in theaters, schools and community centers throughout New Jersey and New York City. The Company dancers are all professional modern dancers, with strong backgrounds in modern, ballet and jazz. The Company's varied repertoire ranges from the dramatic, set to classical music, through the jazzy swing sets, to the abstract and surreal. The Company's dynamic delivery consistently generates enthusiastic audience response.



"The dance is a whirlwind of razzle-dazzle motion set to the big band sounds . . . A bouncy strut, shoulders leading and torsos carried high, and the explosion of sheer physical energy in partnered sections studded with low dips and floor-clearing swirls made for an exhilarating performance."

THE STAR LEDGER

May 23, 1984